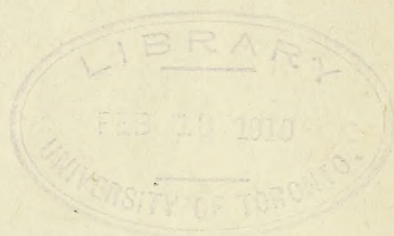


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American Mining Congress

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A BUREAU OF MINES—REASONS WHY IT SHOULD BE CREATED

First—Mining is a national industry. Our minerals are in many instances mined in one state, treated in another, refined in a third and used in all the states and often in foreign countries. The products of the mines are an indispensable basis of practically all our other great national and international industries, including manufacturing, transportation and commerce. They are indispensable to the welfare of the nation itself and, therefore, the nation as a nation should give it the same protection and encouragement that is afforded to other industries.

Second—Mining is increasing in its complexity and its relation to the other branches of industry is yearly becoming more important. The production and consumption of mineral products during the current decade will be nearly two and one-half times greater than for the preceding decade.

The conservation movement has not yet fully appreciated the fact that in the production of minerals there is a greater waste than in almost any other line, although it has been pointed out that our mineral wealth, once exhausted, cannot be replaced. A careful estimate made by experts as to losses in the zinc mining operations of the Joplin (Mo.) district indicates that by its present methods the loss of milling is from 30 to 40 per cent of the zinc product, and that much ore of low grade is left in the mine on account of the impossibility of treating it on a commercially profitable basis. The Joplin district produces approximately 250,000 tons of concentrates annually, with an approximate valuation of \$50 per ton, and careful estimates indicate that an equal quantity is lost in the mining and milling operations, part of which might be saved if the science of concentration were better understood.

Dr. W. R. Ingalls, editor of the *Engineering and Mining Journal*, of New York, says:

"The fact is, that at the present time, no one knows what is the real theory of flotation, and the adaptability of the process to any particular ore can be determined only by experiment."

The loss of \$1,250,000 annually in one district alone should be a matter of sufficient concern to induce the national government to conduct investigations looking to the prevention of this waste. It is estimated that from one copper reduction plant in the territory of Arizona fourteen tons of copper are daily carried away in

the tailings and thus forever lost to the nation; and the manager of one copper treatment plant in the state of Utah estimates the value of the daily losses in the tailings waste to be approximately \$5,000.

Third—The losses in gold and silver mining are not so great, largely because of the higher development of the chemical process of ore treatment. The commercial use of cyanide in the treatment of gold-bearing ores was developed through investigations by the New Zealand government testing plant, and greatly improved under the protection of patents held by Messrs. McArthur and Forrest, who, for many years exacted a royalty from those using this method of treatment in consideration of a license to operate under the McArthur-Forrest patents. This process, however, is only available for the treatment of a small part of the gold-bearing ores of the country, the greater part of which must be treated by some milling method, which, in most cases, and particularly with ores carrying lead and zinc values, is subject to a loss of from 30 to 50 per cent; this loss is greatly enhanced by the waste in mining of ores of too low grade for mining and treatment on a commercial basis.

Some of this waste is commercially unpreventable; much of it could be prevented. In many instances this waste makes mining operations commercially impossible. In some instances this loss cannot be measured. To illustrate: At a dinner given in Washington by Mr. Thomas F. Walsh, during the early part of the year, 1909, Mr. Walsh, after apologizing for "talking shop" to his guests, called attention to a large piece of silver-lead ore:

"This," said Mr. Walsh, "is from a mine which has been in operation, with a large production, for more than fifty years. The ore has been mined for its lead and silver values only. Recently it has been discovered that the value of the vanadium in this ore is equal to its value in lead and silver, and that during all of these years this vanadium has been wasted because its presence was unknown. More than that, the use of vanadium in the manufacture of steel would have more than quadrupled its durability for some purposes. Think of the benefit to industry and commerce, and the conservation of our own resources, if the steel rails which bear our traffic could have been made to last four times longer than has been possible without the use of the vanadium which has been wasted."

Mr. Walsh then pointed to a small brick of vanadium and several bottles containing various forms of the metal prepared by

the Vinson Walsh Research Department of the Colorado School of Mines, which is now being enabled to work out the problem through Mr. Walsh's generosity for the benefit of the world.

This illustrates but one of many fields of investigation which a properly equipped Bureau of Mines could pursue with inestimable advantage to the mining industry and to the industrial development of the nation.

Fourth—The practical solution of these questions requires the highest scientific and technical skill, and under present conditions can only be accomplished by large corporations for individual use, and when so solved give to the large concern an advantage over the smaller producer which makes his successful operation impossible.

Even the large companies solve these questions at the cost of immense duplication—a cost entirely beyond the reach of the smaller operators, many of whom are the owners of potentially great mines, which would be worked if full information regarding methods was available.

Investigation of mining methods, it is believed, would greatly improve mining conditions and bring about the adoption of many important economies. The publication of the results of inquiries of mining methods here and abroad, in order that the principles of each method and the conditions under which it could be applied could be determined, would undoubtedly be of vast benefit to the mining industry. Existing agencies are entirely inadequate for these investigations, which include prospecting, sinking, drifting, stoping, timbering, draining and hoisting, as well as the various methods of milling and smelting. The technical mining press has rendered great and important service in disseminating information, but is not prepared to finance special investigations; even in presenting results it labors under severe limitations of space and cost.

The waste of coal in mining is of vast magnitude, and much better understood than the waste in metals. The annual waste in coal mining operations is estimated to be about 200,000,000 tons, and the aggregate waste of our mineral product is estimated to be above \$1,000,000 daily. The saving which can be effected through technologic investigations such as are contemplated on the part of the proposed Bureau of Mines is so much in excess of the possible cost of conducting such investigations that there can be little question as to the advisability of having this service performed. Whether each individual should conduct his own investigations at an expense so greatly duplicated as in most cases to make it impossible, or whether the government should undertake for the bene-

fit of all of its citizens to conduct those investigations which must precede the economical conservation of its mineral wealth, is the only question which can arise in this connection.

The Money Question.

He who holds the purse rules the household. This is equally true when applied to the great family of nations. Control of the movements and disposition of the world's money metal will result in dominion over the world's commerce.

Every effort has been and is being made by our national government to the end that trade relations with foreign countries shall show a balance in our favor, which is very commendable. But no effort has been made by the federal government to stimulate the production of gold.

An era of high prices has the effect of discouraging gold mining. Mr. E. H. Benjamin, a prominent mining engineer of San Francisco, states that the continued increase in cost of labor, machinery and supplies, will surely stifle the operation of low-grade gold mines in California. California, which for twenty-six consecutive years produced an average of over \$25,000,000 in gold, and which in the year 1852 produced \$81,000,000; which has produced nearly 50 per cent of the total gold production of the United States, is now producing less than one-fourth of the maximum output, and even this production is being threatened.

To prevent the destruction of the gold mining industry the federal government should make an effort in behalf of the low-grade mines in that state similar to that which the United States Agricultural Department made for the fig industry of California.

The production of agricultural products in the United States during the year 1908 was three-quarters of a billion dollars greater than in 1907. The mineral production was one-half billion dollars less than in 1907. The year 1909 shows a corresponding increase in agricultural production and a corresponding decrease in mineral production.

The fame of the West has been based upon her high-grade mines. Her great wealth lies in her low-grade mines, in the operation of which a difference of 50 cents a ton in mining or treatment charges or, what is equivalent, the saving of an additional 50 cents a ton, means the difference between success and failure.

Bonanza mining is a thing of the past. Our future production of gold must come from the low-grade mines, and if we are to keep pace with other lines of production that progress must be based upon the most complete knowledge of all the facts which

underlie the methods of mining and reduction. The creation of a federal Bureau of Mines, equipped to thoroughly investigate the problem of successful treatment of low-grade ores, will undoubtedly greatly stimulate such an increase in our gold production as will keep pace with the increasing demand of commerce.

Protection of Human Life.

Notwithstanding the enormous loss entailed by the present mining methods, these losses are not to be compared with the enormous sacrifice of human life which is now going on in the United States; a loss more than three times greater per thousand men employed than in the countries of France, Belgium and Germany, where for some years investigations have been carried on by the government similar to those which it is proposed shall be carried on by the Mining Bureau, and which are now temporarily conducted by the technologic branch of the United States Geological Survey.

The recent deplorable disaster at the Cherry mine emphasizes and illustrates more strongly than any other in the series of increasing mine disasters in this country one of the special needs of a Bureau of Mines, namely, to develop simple and efficient methods of preventing and extinguishing mine fires. The loss of coal from mine fires has been great in every part of the country. The Cherry disaster tells the story of what may happen in any mine unless better fire-fighting methods and practices are developed, adapted to the peculiar and limited conditions found in mines.

Objections to a National Bureau of Mines.

First—Interference with the rights of the state by undertaking the inspection and police supervision of mining.

Second—The work should be done by the state.

Third—Already too many government bureaus.

Fourth—Federal government already doing enough.

None of these objections are valid and should not deserve serious consideration.

H. R. 13915, for the establishing of a Bureau of Mines, provides only for investigations and inquiries and the publication of the results of such investigations. The individual states could carry this on only at an expense so great as to make it prohibitive.

The legislatures of several of the states to be most vitally affected have adopted resolutions urging upon Congress the enactment of this legislation, and in at least one instance a state legislature postponed action on a bill for the protection of life in its mines

until the foundation for more intelligent legislation could be furnished by the proposed Bureau of Mines, the creation of which it urged with special emphasis.

All expressions of opinion by the Coal Operators' Associations have uniformly urged the creation of such a bureau, and the United Mine Workers of America, an organization composed of more than 300,000 mine workers, is vigorously urging the proposed legislation. It would seem that a proposition upon which both operator and worker can agree is a safe one for Congress to approve. Neither of these forces has yet discovered that a technologic investigation of facts vital to their operations will constitute an infringement of their rights.

The objection that there may be already too many government bureaus does not apply to this case. Reduce the number elsewhere if need be, but let this long-neglected mining industry have what it has long needed and should have by right: a bureau to aid in the lessening of the loss of life and waste of resources in American mining operations.

The work now being done by the technologic branch of the United States Geological Survey relates to mine explosions only, touches less than 15 per cent of the loss of life in coal mining operations, and has nothing to do with the loss of lives in precious metal mining operations, which for each 1,000 men employed are almost equal to the losses in coal mining. The organic law creating the Geological Survey does not authorize it to even do the work which it is doing, and appropriations for this work are subject to a point of order and can only be secured by unanimous vote in Congress. The work is spasmodic and uncertain, and the best men cannot be induced to remain in the service and risk their lives for the salaries which are possible, particularly when the time of service is so uncertain.

For these and many other reasons the American Mining Congress urges upon the Congress of the United States the speedy enactment of a bill for the creation of a Bureau of Mines in the Department of the Interior.

The secretary will gladly furnish additional information upon request.

Respectfully submitted,

J. F. CALLBREATH, JR., *Secretary.*

MEETINGS OF BRANCHES

SPOKANE BRANCH

Proceedings of the Meeting of the Spokane Branch of The American Mining Congress, Held in the Assembly Room of the Chamber of Commerce, Monday Evening, Jan. 24, 1910

The meeting was called to order by M. Baumgartner, president.

On account of the absence from the city of Mr. L. C. Jaquish, the secretary, Mr. Thomas A. LePage acted as secretary *pro tem*.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

After the various communications had been read the motion was made, and carried, that the same be placed on file. It was further moved and seconded that the letter from the Hon. Frank W. Mondell, representative from Wyoming, be made a part of the minutes, a copy of which, with the reply thereto, be mailed to the headquarters of the American Mining Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES U. S.

COMMITTEE ON THE PUBLIC LANDS,

Washington, D. C., January 17, 1910.

Mr. Matt Baumgartner, President Spokane Branch American Mining Congress, Spokane, Wash.:

My Dear Sir—I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of January 8, with resolutions of the Western Conservation League, for which please accept my thanks.

I had hoped that the President would be less radical in his views with regard to so-called "conservation" than is indicated by his message of today. The message, and the bills which have been proposed by the Interior Department to carry these views into effect, are even more radical, if possible, than the message itself. It is exceedingly important that our western people should stand as a unit against the plans which have been proposed to fix federal landlordism and bureaucratic control over the West; to treat our western resources as a national asset. The plans of state socialism and bureaucracy have largely originated with the Forestry Bureau and the Geological Survey. They have been in a position, with their large appropriations, to build up (with the aid of the sensational magazine writers) a sentiment that threatens serious injury to the West unless the western people stand unitedly against it. For myself, I propose to fight it out on the line of individual ownership and local control. The people of the West are entirely competent to protect themselves against monopolies, or attempted monopolies, within their own borders.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) F. W. MONDELL.

Spokane, Wash., January 25, 1910.

Hon. Frank W. Mondell, Washington, D. C.:

Dear Sir—We beg to acknowledge receipt of your communication of January 17, last, and it is with pleasure that the members of

this organization thank you for the kind interest you are taking in our behalf.

We more than realize the serious position we would be placed in should any of the contemplated legislation (which would virtually make us slaves to the federal government and to the individual wishes of official bureaucracy) be passed.

As the champion of our cause, and that of the common people, the stand you have taken is very commendatory and, from our point of view, the only tenable one.

While you are assisting in directing proper legislation in Washington, it shall be our duty to educate the people against the constant encroachment of individual rights.

Very respectfully yours,

(Signed) SPOKANE BRANCH OF THE
AMERICAN MINING CONGRESS,

By Matt Baumgartner, President.

The following resolutions were introduced by Mr. LePage. Upon motion the same were referred for immediate action to a committee of five members, and upon the recommendation of the committee were unanimously carried:

RESOLUTIONS

WHEREAS, The Hon. Secretary of the Interior has recommended in his last report, and there are now bills pending in Congress looking to a complete revision of the laws relating to coal lands and coal mining which have already indicated an increase in the purchase price of 2,500,000 acres of coal lands 200 per cent, or \$100,000,000, and upon the same basis of classification will ultimately increase the price upon 17,500,000 acres about 200 per cent, or \$700,000,000—all of which must eventually be paid by the consumers; and it is further proposed to sell the land and the coal thereunder separately; therefore, it is

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Spokane Branch of the American Mining Congress, deem that the proposed legislation is unfair to the masses of the western people and places an unjust burden on the present and unborn generations of one part of the country not exacted elsewhere, and must, therefore, be interpreted as class legislation; be it further

RESOLVED, That the price of coal land should remain as now, and that the state should be required to pass legislation to prevent monopoly and a basis for equitable taxation; be it further

RESOLVED, That we, the members of this organization, instruct the secretary and request the president to forward copies of these resolutions to the National Organization of the American Mining Congress, to officials (national and state), newspapers and individuals who may be interested in this subject.

THOS. A. LePAGE,
C. GEORGE,
JOHN M. SCHNATTERLY,
J. E. ANGLE,
J. L. OWENS, Committee.

Upon request Mr. C. W. Hess gave quite an interesting synopsis of his patent pertaining to the workings of the new cyanide process. Other speakers of the evening were Mr. S. H. Anschell, who spoke of the great benefits derived from the construction of a railroad into the Metaline camp and of the promising future of the section. Mr. J. L. Owens furnished a brief statement in regard to encouraging development work now carried on by the Priest Lake Mining Company. Mr. J. M. Schnatterly spoke enthusiastically of the placer mining operations and the splendid results of the same by several companies in the Mooyec district, Idaho. The meeting then adjourned upon call of the president.

SPOKANE BRANCH OF THE
AMERICAN MINING CONGRESS,

By Thos. A. LePage, *Secretary Pro Tem.*

COMMUNICATIONS

Contributions dealing with questions of practical import to the mining industry are invited from our members. They will be given the best consideration consistent with the space at disposal, and should be brief. Preference will be given to communications according to their probable interest to the readers of the Monthly Bulletin.

Spokane, Wash., January 25, 1910.

The American Mining Congress, Denver, Colo.:

Gentlemen—The regular monthly meeting of the Spokane Branch was held on Monday, January 24th. The subject discussed was a portion of Mr. R. A. Ballinger's report regarding the classification of lands. We consider this subject of vital importance and we shall in the future, pay very close attention to proposed legislation by the federal government.

I have received the first Bulletin of the American Mining Congress, and the same was well received by the members in general. I have received two or three letters from parties and the impression seems to be that we are opposed to conservation. Such is not the case. We are for true conservation which is to prevent waste, but not to retard development and drive away capital-seeking investments.

From my personal view, the present policy of the Forestry Bureau tends more to create and assist the timber trust than the miner and settler. It is an admitted fact that matured timber is sold in such large tracts and under such terms and conditions that only the owner of a large amount of capital can acquire the same, generally a corporation. It can also be proven that these same corporations are saving their own timber and cut largely from the timber reserves, saving their own timber, a great deal of which is unsurveyed land and for which they do not contribute 1 cent in revenue to the respective states. To hoodwink the public, you are informed that 25 per cent is returned to the respective states and I have it from the mouth of a governor that he is unable to obtain information from our federal officers from what sources the money is derived.

The question arises, "why does the federal government return to the states, 25 per cent of all the money paid for stumpage?" I presume it is not charity, and the conclusion must be drawn that none of the money, or all if it belongs to the different states. You are informed by the Forestry Bureau what is returned to the states, but they do not inform you of the advance in price of stumpage from 100 to 500 per cent, and the man that builds a home, the cattle raiser, and the wool grower pay for it. They make life miserable for the prospector and miner, and drive away altogether, the settler, homeseeker and up-builder of the country.

If we are to save the timber for unborn generations, I say, outside of what is being used by the homesteader and miner, let us stop the sale of timber from the Forest Reserves for a period of from fifteen to twenty-five years, and compel the corporation to cut their own timber and force them to pay a just tax for the protection they receive from the municipal, county and state governments.

The great howling that has been made by the eastern subsidized magazines regarding precipitation, floods, or draughts with regard to the forests, is presented in its true light by Willis L. Moore, chief of the Weather Bureau of Washington, D. C., a man in position to offer the correct information, in his recent article which reads as follows: "There is no relation between the denudation of forests and the precipitation of the rains, or floods, or draughts." Mr. Moore says that the run of our rivers is not materially affected by other factors than the precipitation, except that the forest, by facilitating evaporation, may slightly intensify low water conditions, and high waters are not higher, and the low waters are not lower than formerly, nor floods of greater frequency."

The withdrawal of water-power sites by the federal government has been much discussed at our meetings, and if this policy is to be adhered to and adopted by the national government, great injury will be done to the western people and their descendants. Further development in that line will practically cease, as private capital could not expect any returns from its investment. On the other hand, should the government undertake the development of the same, a revenue per horsepower would be collected from us for the use, which would go into the federal treasury and no taxable property would be created thereby, as Uncle Sam pays no taxes on any government improvement. What the development of water power means to us I wish to illustrate through the companies operating in our city.

As the two companies are nearly equal in their operations I will quote the correct figures of one company, of which the amount of capital invested is \$25,000,000 with 11,000 horsepower developed, and an additional 10,000 horse power which they are able to develop. The number of employees is 1,000, with an annual pay roll of \$900,000. The amount of the state, county and municipal taxes paid is \$65,000. Doubling these figures for the two companies, we have 2,000 men employed, \$1,800,000 paid out in wages and \$130,000 in taxes. All this on 22,000 horse power.

These figures on the total minimum possible horse power of 24,000,000 horse power would amount to more than a thousand times as much as the figures shown; more than 1,000,000 men employed, \$900,000,000 paid out in wages, and more than \$65,000,000 contributed annually in taxes, of which latter amount from the government, not one cent would be paid.

The total possible water power of the United States, according to the United States Geological Survey, is 66,000,000 horse power, of which the North Atlantic coast furnishes 3,000,000 horse power with 54 per cent developed. The North Pacific coast has 24,000,000 horse power, of which less than 2 per cent is developed. Should these water powers remain under federal control, a charge would certainly be made, and taking a charge of \$1, the enormous sum of \$24,000,000 would annually flow into the federal treasury at Washington, creating an everlasting burden of taxation on ourselves, as everything must come from the pockets of the consumer.

That the present policy of the federal government does not mean conservation is evident from the following facts: The Department of Interior has withdrawn along the St. Joe river in Idaho, about 3,600 acres of land adjacent to water power on which the Chicago-Milwaukee had filed to be used in running their trains. By utilizing this power, nothing

is wasted, not speaking of the capital invested and labor employed, taxes contributed, a saving of coal would be made and conserved, and there is less danger in setting the surrounding forests on fire through the use of electricity than coal.

Then comes the comprehensive question which I am not able to answer at present. "What saving in fuel would one horse power created by water power make, utilized for railroad purposes?" No doubt the saving multiplied with the former water power figures that could be produced would run into the millions. So, the withdrawal of water power has only the tendency to consume more quickly our forest and coal deposits.

As stated, the discussion for our next meeting will be the Classification of Coal Lands. I wish, however, to call your attention to the matter at this time, that our fuel bill has already advanced the sum of nearly \$100,000,000. What puzzles me is how any one can classify and appraise coal lands by an occasional outcrop, and how the prices can be fixed without determining through actual development, the quantity of coal, or the quality thereof. I believe this is absolutely impractical. In addition to having the price of coal land raised, it is also intended to put a royalty on the output, and then we wonder what makes the cost of living high. It is simply a good way of robbing the public and under the disguise of conservation.

If the attempted legislation is carried through it will not stop with coal mining, but it will only be a matter of time when it will effect metal mining and put additional burdens on the miner, merchant, farmer and laborer. Does the solution lay in the possibility of the eastern manufacturers realizing that with the development of our natural resources in the West, they fear encroachment on their business, because through the development of these resources we would be in a position to manufacture equally as cheap, if not cheaper, than they could and thus acquire the commerce of the world.

The West has been paying for the protection of the Eastern manufacturer in the form of tariff. We also pay excessive freight rates. Is all this conservation talk only the nigger in the wood pile to retard as far as possible investment of capital, and the development of the Western country, and the placing of the burden of taxation on our natural resources, the means of strangling the upbuilding of our manufacturing industry?

I believe all of this false conservation talk would soon cease should the federal government attempt to place a royalty on the production of coal, and an annual tax on the water powers in the East. This is the work we have outlined, and if we are taxed, will not cease propaganda work until we are on an equal footing with the East, and we hope, through western representatives and senators, to obtain legislation along these lines.

Respectfully yours,

SPOKANE BRANCH OF THE
AMERICAN MINING CONGRESS

By Matt Baumgartner, President.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Spokane Branch has instituted regular monthly meetings for the discussion of mining topics. The last meeting was held on Monday evening, January 24, the discussion being upon the "Public Lands Policy."

The next meeting will be held the latter part of February, and will take up the consideration of the question of "Classification of Coal Lands." Due notice of the time and place of the meeting will be given to the members by President Matt Baumgartner of the Spokane Branch.

PROGRESS OF THE MINING BUREAU BILL

The House of Representatives on Tuesday, January 25, passed the bill for the establishment of a Bureau of Mines by a large majority. Friends of the bill succeeded in gaining for it consideration as a special order on that date, which accounts for its passage in the House thus early in the session. On January 26 the bill, which was slightly amended in the House, went to the Senate; was read twice and referred to the Committee on Mines and Mining. It is likely that the Senate Committee will give public hearings, extending to the friends and opponents of the measure an opportunity to register their arguments for and against the measure. Its supporters have great confidence that it will pass the Senate by a safe vote, and while some opposition in the latter body has developed it is not believed that it is sufficient to defeat the measure.

